

Great Tree Zen

WOMEN'S TEMPLE

Fall-Winter 2023-2024



Great Tree Zen Women's Temple offers Soto Zen Buddhist teachings and practice for all in an environment that welcomes diversity and fosters a spiritual community based on mutual respect.

Young People's Retreat

This fall Great Tree hosted a young people's retreat in partnership with Dharma Gates, a grassroots nonprofit dedicated to opening pathways into formal meditation practice for young adults. Eighteen young people between 18 -35 spent an afternoon at Great Tree meditating, working, and discussing the Buddhist teaching about hungry ghosts and the suffering caused by addictive behavior. A big thank you to Dharma Gates for organizing and promoting this event. We are already talking about follow-up.



Baby Blessing Ceremony

On September 24, Great Tree held a welcoming ceremony and blessing for Cedar Aurora Chambers. The Great Tree Sangha welcomes Cedar Aurora.

Dogen said, "You must realize the truth of the birth of a child. You should study not only that the child comes from the parent but also that the parent comes from the child. You must also study and thoroughly investigate that the moment of the arising of parent and child is the practice and attainment of the manifestation of childbirth."



Genjo's Ordination

Roland "Tre" Williams received Priest Ordination (Shukke Tokudo) on November 12 at Great Tree Zen Temple. His Way Name "Dairin," with his Dharma name "Genjo," means "Great Forest Actualizing the Way." Genjo has been a student of Zen for 12 years and plans to begin priest training in March at Toshoji Monastery in Japan.



Upcoming events

PRISON PRECEPTS CEREMONY

Eleven inmates at Mountain View Correctional Institution will receive the Bodhisattva precepts and a Dharma Name on Buddha's Enlightenment Day, December 8, 2023.



Great Tree Zen Temple's 2023

Buddha's Enlightenment Ceremony Sunday, December 10 – 2 p.m.

*followed by opening of the Annual Holiday
Craft's Sale – In person & zoom.*

Annual Holiday Craft Sale – Sunday Dec 10

Please support Great Tree's Annual Craft Sale with local dharma inspired arts and crafts including pottery, calligraphy, cards, books, bookmarks and more! *Following Enlightenment Ceremony.*
–After Sunday: In person by appointment or via online-store.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Come and welcome in the New Year with temple cleaning, mochi making and sitting, drumming, chanting and ringing in 2024:

- December 28: 1-4 p.m. Temple Cleaning
- December 29 : 1-4 p.m. Temple Cleaning
- December 30: 1 p.m.: Mochi Making Party
- December 31: 7 p.m. - 1 a.m. : Evening program (zazen, drumming, music)

2024 JUKAI CEREMONY

Jukai means “to receive precepts”. If you are interested in receiving the buddhist precepts at Great Tree in 2024, please contact Rev Teijo Munnich at daijuteijo@gmail.com. Requirements for receiving the precepts are:


- Participate in full Sewing Retreat February 2-7;
- Complete sewing of a rakusu (small buddha robe);
- Attend Jukai Sesshin May 3-5;
- Participate in Jukai Ceremony May 5 at 3 p.m.



Great Tree Zen Women's Temple
679 Lower Flat Creek Road,
Alexander, NC 28701

ONGOING GREAT TREE SCHEDULE

Many Great Tree activities are now on Zoom. However, our temple is open for these in-person activities: Thursday Evening Zazen, Saturday Morning Program, Family Meditation, Full Moon Gatherings, Sesshins, and Retreats.

Great Tree's website, www.greattreetemple.org, has a detailed list of all activities, as well the  link to our YouTube video archive of past events & lectures (located in the bottom website footer). And be sure to sign up for the GT mailing list to get updates on speakers and activities.

Saturday Morning Zazen & Lectures (In person or on Zoom):

Saturday morning: zazen 9:30; lecture 10-11:00 a.m.

Hear guest teachers on topics relating to Buddhist teachings and practice, as well as body awareness. (previous ones in YouTube archive)

Weekly Activities:

Morning zazen (Zoom only) Tues, Wed, Thurs mornings
6 – 6:40 {10 minute kinhin} 6:50 – 7:30 a.m.

Evening zazen (in-person & Zoom) Thurs 6 p.m.

Let us know at least a day ahead if you are coming in person:
daijuteijo@gmail.com

Tonglen practice (Zoom only) Thursday mornings 9:30 – 10 a.m.

Monthly Activities: (Check GT website for details)

Family meditation: Last Sunday of month at 10:30 a.m .
(both in-person & on Zoom)

Intro to Zen Practice: Third Sunday of month 10:30 a.m. (Zoom only)

Full moon gathering: 7-8 p.m. (both in-person & on Zoom)

Visit **GREAT TREE'S CRAFT'S SALE** In-person by appointment or website: www.greattreetemple.org/online-store

...featuring **Paperleaf Imprint's** art prints, chapbooks, bookmarks, and more, as well as various art and crafts.

Zen Center of Asheville:

In person zazen and lectures: www.zcasheville.org/schedule.htm

